

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Office action dated July 29, 2004, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-3 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,460,708. As stated in the action, a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based upon a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. U.S. Patent No. 6,460,708 (Serial No. 09/910,649) is commonly owned with this application and is cross-referenced in the first paragraph of the specification. Applicants are enclosing a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejection over U.S. Patent No. 6,460,708.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 4-17. Support for new claims 4-17 are found in the first two paragraphs on page 7 in the specification.

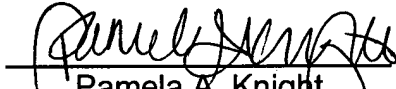
Conclusion

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the

Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

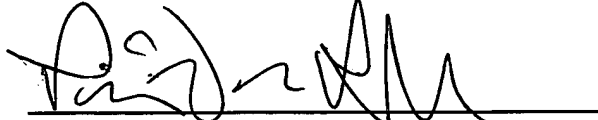
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on December 22, 2004.


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Respectfully submitted,

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